

Members

We welcome Roger Tredree as our most recent member.

Meetings

The final meeting in November 2016 was a visit from the Thornbury club led by Martin Elliott.

The theme for the final meeting of 2016 was “Anything (philatelic) Christmassy”, which produced items as diverse as Scandinavian Christmas postcards, GB slogans and stamps with a Christmas theme. We were also introduced to the first Christmas stamp. Was it the Canadian issue of 1898?

The letter “F” started the new year with members showing their usual lateral thinking, including firsts, forgeries and “fra” (= from ship mail). Roy Bentley entertained us on chairman's night with an illustrated talk on the history of his collections.

The “1947” meeting provided quite a challenge as few stamps were issued that year. Indeed GB produced only one, the 11d value in the definitive series. Auction night saw some strong bidding for several items.

Competition night saw Roy Bentley receive first prize for his Phillips airmails, Neil Jones for his New Zealand postage dues and Erene Grieve for her thematic entry entitled “The pen is mightier than the sword”.

The dealer evening was very successful, with Roy Holliss providing a good rummage as usual.

The highlight of the 2017 programme was a talk by visiting speaker Norman Hudson (photo below). I missed his display of Scottish Islands due to an unforeseen stay in hospital but feedback was excellent.

**Visits**

We visited Cardiff in February and Bridgend in March. On both occasions we managed to field a full team and provide an entertaining evening. Bev Davies and Erene Grieve joined myself and Martyn Britton for the Bridgend evening. Members are reminded that they are all welcome on these visits. Indeed it is good to be able to vary the teams.

Earlier this year, John Perry displayed Swedish American Line to the Chippenham club and Neil Jones displayed New Zealand to the Barry club. If any other members give talks to other clubs please tell me.

Juniors

The stamp club at the Dell primary school has continued to thrive. This year we decided to get the boys and girls to put together a sixteen page joint entry at Spring Stampex, with each producing one or two pages. The entry was given a silver gilt, one of the highest awards. The only disappointment was that in the whole of the UK not one other junior stamp club



managed to enter. The entry had the title “Only One Earth” and covered all aspects of saving the planet.

Federation News

Geoff Cooper from Swansea passed away earlier this year. Geoff and I had worked together as chairman and vice-chairman of the Federation. Geoff has also visited our Newport club, displaying his favourite Mauritius material.

The Annual Convention takes place on 20 May 2017 at the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ. We will have three competition

entries: The History of Halley Base (Alistair MacKinnon), Phillips Airmail Covers (Roy Bentley), and Written Word (Erene Grieve). Please make every effort to attend this once a year event. Also please note that there is a car park at the theatre but requires a payment of £3 for the day.

The Federation Newsletter, the April 2017 issue being number 79, is on the website: fswps.weebly.com/news.html .

Planning for the Autumn Fair at the Graig Community Centre Bassaleg is under way. We have provisional bookings from several dealers and hope that the other clubs will support us. As the 70th anniversary of the club is on 16 October this year, we plan to print a special postcard and possible a Smiler sheet (see photograph below), as we had done for our 60th. Please look at the club website to see what we have been doing.



ABPS Congress – Cardiff 2017

Work on the 2017 Congress from 27 to 30 July at the Jurys Inn Cardiff is proceeding, with myself and Paul Clarke from Cardiff being the local representatives. The Sunday morning is free to all members, although there is a small charge on other days. We will be fully involved as a club with the Friday standing display of Monmouthshire being provided by myself, Roy Bentley and Martyn Britton. Erene Grieve will be giving a talk on the Sunday morning based on her collection on the history of writing. It will also be an opportunity to showcase the Dell's Stampex entry and the work of Erene's clubs in the Haverfordwest area. Sunday will also see a standing display from Newport, Cardiff and Bridgend members: ten sheets from ten members, which will be an opportunity to impress.



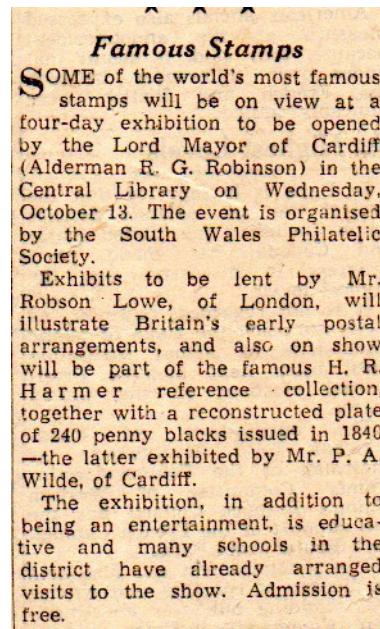
ABPS News

ABPS News is a quarterly journal that is the voice of the stamp clubs throughout the UK. The

editor is always pleased to receive articles and notes of club meetings. The Spring issue, which is available at club meetings and also on the ABPS website, has on its cover a photograph of Bev Davies with the boys and girls of the Dell Primary School. Inside there is also an illustrated report of our society activities. A MS Word Document and jpg picture by email is all that is needed. As a club we actively support the ABPS making regularly contributions to the journal. The latest editions are on www.abps.org.uk .

Other News

I do not know the year that this exhibition took place as I have only a scrap of the newspaper article but Robinson was Mayor in 1947 and 1948. It could have been 13 October 1947, three days before the Newport club was formed. If so, what was the South Wales Philatelic Society? All help is welcome in solving this mystery.



For the whole of May, I will have a standing display of 108 sheets on the history of the Swedish American Line at the Royal Philatelic Society London. I plan to show this to Newport members at one of our summer meetings.

The stamp fair at Worcester (Worpex) takes place on 13 May 2017. The Swindon fair (Swinpex) is on 10 June 2017.

Please remember that our own club website is a mine of local philatelic information: newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com .

John Perry, Honorary Secretary (Tel: 01633 881068)